

would damage their fine position, and would take authority from the nurses.

Miss Dey received overwhelming support in her conviction that a survey is not necessary, and Miss C. Alexander, President of the London Hospital League of Nurses, proposed that the Board of Directors of the National Council arrange to meet members of the Royal College of Nursing in an endeavour to clear up problems, saying that an independent survey was unnecessary, would cause expense and delay, and that nurses could manage their own affairs. Both ladies received great acclamation from the delegates present; Miss H. McLoughlin, President of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., Miss M. Smyth, President of the Nightingale Fellowship, St. Thomas's Hospital, Mrs. T. Barber and Miss E. J. Merry, specially identified their total agreement on this important matter.

#### Revision of Constitution.

In the light of discussions having taken place, and recommendations agreed on the revision of the Constitution, this document was before the Grand Council for their final agreement, and the President read through clause by clause.

The Royal College of Nursing had sent in last minute suggestions for the wording of the Article on the Aims and Objects of the National Council.

It was agreed that it had been arranged for the meeting to conclude this business as far as possible, and that, therefore, the approval of the rest of the Constitution must go forward, and the objections raised by the Royal College of Nursing be considered at a later meeting of the Grand Council.

It was agreed that the entrance fee for affiliation in the National Council should be raised from £3 3s. to £5 5s.

The election of Hon. Officers was regulated and agreed.

#### Delegates to attend the International Council of Nurses' Conference in Stockholm.

It was agreed that the delegates to represent the National Council of Nurses at the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Stockholm in June this year should be Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., S.R.N., Miss E. J. Merry, S.R.N., Miss B. Wood, S.R.N., and Miss C. MacNaughton, R.G.N., who is to open the Session on "How to Meet the Demand for Nurses."

#### Doubling of Dues to the International Council of Nurses.

Miss M. M. Edwards, M.V.O., S.R.N., Hon. Treasurer, reported that 13 countries affiliated in the International Council of Nurses had agreed to the doubling of their dues, three were unable to do so, and nine had been unable to renew their contacts severed during the war.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Armstrong, President, for the most able and patient manner in which she had conducted the meeting, and to Miss Lane for the delightful preparations arranged and for the delicious tea provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

#### CONSTRUCTION OR OBSTRUCTION ?

Members of the Nursing Profession would do well to ask themselves: "Is the Council of the Royal College of Nursing engaged on a programme of construction or obstruction in connection with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Northern Ireland?"

Having failed to assume the functions of the National Council of Nurses, they now demand an independent survey, and hold up final agreement on the Revision of the Constitution and By-laws.

Gratitude must be expressed for the professional loyalty and courageous support for the National Council, to two of the distinguished members of that body—Miss Helen Dey, C.B.E., R.R.C., S.R.N., and Miss Clare Alexander, S.R.N.

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

THE Seventh Ordinary General Meeting of the Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on January 28th, 1949.

In the much regretted absence, through illness, of the President, Miss M. E. Thurnham, Fellow, was elected to take the Chair.

The Chairman then called upon the Hon. Secretary, Miss A. Stewart Bryson, to read the notice convening the meeting, this having been done, and Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The following Annual Report and the Balance Sheet were adopted.

#### THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947-48

In presenting the Audited Accounts for 1947-48, we are to be congratulated on our financial position.

#### Retired Members of Council.

This year the Council will lose by rotation the very valuable services of Mrs. M. C. Barber, D.N. (Lond.), Fellow, whose indefatigable services as a Fellow and also as Vice-President to the College have been warmly appreciated. Her devotion to the late President during the last months of her life has inspired the gratitude and admiration of all Fellows and Members.

The death of Miss Elizabeth Martin, R.R.C., Fellow and Vice-President, whose sudden passing was a great shock to all who knew her, her never-failing zeal for the progress of College activities, is an irreparable loss to her colleagues.

#### New Members of the Council.

The following nominations for election have been received, as Fellows: Miss F. R. Roberts, retired Matron, Mayday Hospital, Croydon, Surrey, and Miss D. de M. Warren, D.N. (Lond.), who has retired in rotation as a Member (now transferred to as Fellow), has been elected the second Vice-President, and a Member, Miss Mabel Gerard, Deputy-Matron, City Hospital, Nottingham.

Their support and help now placed at the disposal of the Council will be greatly appreciated.

The Council has continuously kept in active touch with members, and has dealt effectively with all the business of the College with economy.

The clerical staff have attended daily throughout the year and performed their respective duties with admirable dispatch, for which the Council desire to place on record its gratitude.

#### Completion of War Damage Repairs.

We are happy to report that Messrs. Maple & Co. began repairs and redecoration of the premises on 31st December, 1947, which they hope will be completed by 31st July, 1948.

The whole of the building will have been restored and redecored, as in addition to War Damage a considerable sum has been spent by the Council to ensure the complete repair and restoration and beautifying of the whole of the premises. Although the work has been carried out to our satisfaction College activities have unavoidably been curtailed.

#### Nursing Education.

Substantial educational grants have been awarded to enable Fellows and Members to take higher educational courses.

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